

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (SDD)

TYPE: *Experimental Product*

DATE: *December 22, 2004*

EXPERIMENTAL SNOWFALL INTENSITY OUTLOOK

Part I – Mission Connection

- a. **Product Description** – The Snowfall Intensity Outlook will display graphically on the internet. The graphic will show areas of snowfall amount per hour for the WFO County Warning Area (CWA) for 24 hour period beginning at 7 am. It is intended to supplement official Hazardous Weather Outlook text and snowfall forecasts.
- b. **Purpose** - The purpose of this experimental web page is to provide our customers and partners with enhanced detail both spatially and temporally on the hourly snowfall rates affecting the WFO CWA for the next 24 hours. It is anticipated that users such as emergency managers, snow removal personnel, business owners, and lay people will be able to monitor the web site when making plans for the upcoming 24 hour period. Many emergency management offices and department of transportation departments have stated that snowfall intensity determines how severe a snowstorm is, not necessarily, the total snowfall. This is especially true in the lake effect snow areas which typically receive more than 1 foot of snow at a time. It is the snowfall rate that often causes the most public impact.
- c. **Audience** - The audience is any customer in the WFO forecast area who would like access to graphically depicted weather information.
- d. **Presentation Format** - All displays occur via a web page interface. Hourly snowfall intensity or rates are displayed by forecast zone and are color coded. The areas shown will include, snowfall intensities or rates less than one inch per hour, one to three inches per hour, and greater than 3 inches per hour. Forecasters create the graphics in GFE and then run a script to send over the PNG file to the WFO home page. A graphic exists for a 24 hour period ending at 7 am local time.
- e. **Feedback Method** - We solicit feedback through the NWS Digital Feedback form, e-mail to the webmaster, or by traditional mail to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Ron Murphy
32 Dawes Drive
Johnson City, New York 13790
Phone 607-729-1597

E-mail comments or questions can be sent to:

Ron.Murphy@noaa.gov

- f. **Example URL** – <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/bgm/winter/>

Part II - Technical Description

- a. **Format and Science Basis** - This product was developed to provide customers enhanced weather hazard information in graphical form. The graphics are created in GFE using standard editing procedures with a 5 km resolution.
- b. **Availability** - The web page is available 24/7. The underlying graphics are updated at a minimum of once per day and may be updated as conditions warrant.
- c. **Additional Information** - Forecast output from this experimental application is not intended to substitute for the official forecasts. Rather, it is to be used as a supplement to the traditional product by users wishing to obtain more detailed snowfall information.